

Arizona Game and Fish Department 2011-2012 Annual Report





Larry D. Voyles

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Arizonans are passionate about wildlife, but many are unaware of how wildlife conservation is funded. This past year marked the 75th anniversary of the beginning of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR), a critical source of conservation funding that is sometimes referred to as “The Greatest Story Never Told.”

This program is a remarkable partnership between sportsmen, industry, and state and federal agencies. The federal government collects an excise tax from manufacturers on sales of certain hunting and fishing gear and motor boat fuel and distributes those funds to state wildlife agencies for programs that benefit wildlife and outdoor recreation. The WSFR funds, in combination with the sale of hunting and fishing licenses in each state, account for the majority of funding for state wildlife agencies. Whether you are a hunter, angler, wildlife watcher, boater or recreational shooter, chances are that your recreational pursuit has been benefitted by WSFR.

State wildlife agencies are one of three “legs” of the national conservation machine, the other two being the federal government and nongovernmental/private organizations. All are important, but most people don’t realize that if all the state wildlife agencies were thought of as a single entity, it would be perhaps the largest, with a combined budget exceeding that of either the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the BLM, or the Forest Service (excluding the USFS fire suppression portion). State wildlife agencies, funded largely by the user-pay, public benefit model encompassed in the WSFR program and hunting/fishing license sales, are the primary delivery mechanism for much of the “boots on the ground” conservation work in the U.S.

I invite you to read about our agency’s activities and successes described in this annual report. One was the grand opening of the Northern Arizona Shooting Range in July. The event was the culmination of years of effort to establish a public shooting range near Flagstaff, an area that had been without a public shooting facility for nearly two decades.

Another success was continued development of new products useful to outdoor recreationists. One was the new “Fish&Boat Arizona” map, a web-based tool for finding and learning about Arizona’s best fishing waters and boating spots. Another is “Recreational Access Arizona,” a GIS-based mapping tool that provides information on access to and through private lands as part of the Department’s efforts to maintain public access.

Arizona Game and Fish, working in partnership with sportsmen’s/conservation groups through the Hunter and Angler Heritage Work Group (HAHWG), continued to increase the number of hunting, shooting and outdoor skills workshops geared toward youth and first-time participants, with 45 events held during the past fiscal year. Numerous other events conducted by the Department gave the public exposure to wildlife and outdoor recreation. The Department’s Outdoor Expo alone drew more than 33,000 participants, including a record 5,000 on Youth Day.

This past year showed a number of wildlife conservation successes, including record numbers of bald eagle breeding pairs, a record number of black-footed ferrets, translocations of bighorn sheep to augment populations, wildlife habitat connectivity projects, native fish recovery efforts, and many more. The Department also completed its Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Plan, which will help guide conservation efforts into the future.

I’ll close by saying thank you to all of the partners and supporters with whom we work on a regular basis. The things we accomplish together for wildlife and for continuing our outdoor heritage would not be possible without you.

Larry D. Voyles
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry D. Voyles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

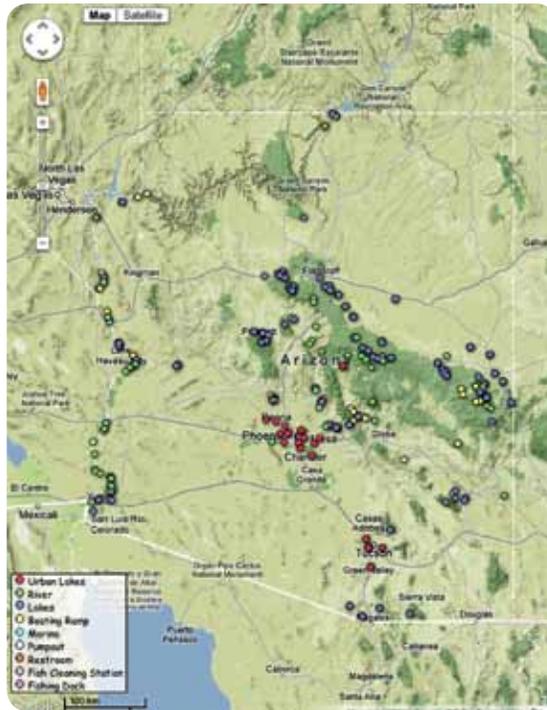
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New interactive fishing map launched

Can a mouse help you catch fish? It can if it's a computer mouse. Finding out where to fish and other useful information is just a mouse click away, thanks to a new interactive online fishing map launched by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The map includes helpful information about 150 of Arizona's best fishing lakes, streams and rivers. Besides showing how to get there, the map also provides other useful information, including the type of fish species at a particular lake, the available facilities and concessions, and even special regulations that might apply. The interactive map can be found at <http://gis.azgfd.gov/fishandboat>.

Northern Arizona Shooting Range celebrates grand opening

The Northern Arizona Shooting Range, located east of Flagstaff, celebrated its grand opening on July 7, 2012. The ceremony included an honor guard presentation of colors by officers from the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Arizona Department of Public Safety, remarks from officials and dignitaries, a traditional Hopi blessing, and a ceremonial ribbon-cutting. Loaner gear was available to members of the public to experience shooting .22 rifles on the 100-yard range and archery on the 50-yard range. The National Sporting Clays Association



The Fish&Boat Arizona interactive online map shows information about Arizona fishing waters.

registered sporting clay events and fun shoots were well-attended. The opening of the range on the former 160-acre Foster Ranch site was the culmination of a long-term effort by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department and shooting sports enthusiasts to establish a public shooting range in the Flagstaff vicinity, which had been without a public shooting range for years. The range is operated by the Northern Arizona Shooting Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, through a cooperative agreement with the Department.



The Northern Arizona Shooting Range serves residents and visitors of the Flagstaff area, which had been without a public shooting range for years.

Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Plan is approved

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's new strategic plan, Wildlife 20/20, was approved in December 2012 by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. The plan provides broad strategic guidance for all Department programs and is intended to be a living document that conveys policy direction that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has provided to the Department to guide its work into the future. Input was gathered through human dimensions surveys to collect information about the desired future and priorities for the Department and for wildlife resources. The draft plan was made available for public review and comment, which was taken into consideration before the final plan was presented to the Commission for approval. Wildlife 20/20 will be complemented by additional plans (such as the State Wildlife Action Plan), or by operational and implementation plans designed to provide more specific direction as needed.

Arizona receives federal approval of revised wildlife action plan

Arizona's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) revision that will help guide wildlife conservation efforts for 2012-2022 was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The plan's

revision considers many of the changes that Arizona and its wildlife have experienced since the original plan was created in 2006. Some of the more significant changes that impact wildlife conservation and were addressed in the plan include the state's above-average human population growth, increasing demand for renewable energy sources, emergence of new wildlife diseases, and the growing number of new invasive species. One of the most notable actions to come from revising the plan is the Arizona Game and Fish Department's HabiMap™ Arizona, an innovative new tool that utilizes the latest mapping technology to provide wildlife data to help conservation partners make informed planning decisions that consider wildlife's needs. Having an approved SWAP in place allows Arizona to continue to receive federal grants through the State Wildlife Grant program created under bipartisan congressional legislation in 2001.

Game and Fish officers perform wide array of duties

Arizona Game and Fish Department officers were actively engaged in a number of activities over the past year, including law enforcement, wildlife management, information/education, habitat projects, and others. In the area of

Arizona Game and Fish officers conduct watercraft law enforcement among their many other duties.



wildlife law enforcement, officers issued about 1,000 citations for wildlife violations in fiscal year 2011-12. They conducted 32 special projects—including saturation patrols, night patrols, wildlife decoy operations and special investigations—to apprehend wildlife law violators. In the area of watercraft law enforcement, officers provided more than 7,530 hours of on-the-water boating enforcement patrol—accounting for about 26 percent of the time invested by the 16 agencies performing such duties in Arizona. They also accounted for more than 25 percent of all boating Operating Under the Influence (OUI) arrests and 20 percent of all boating citations issued in the state. In the area of off-highway vehicle (OHV) law enforcement, officers engaged extensively in education as well as enforcement efforts. They also conducted 10 OHV special projects that resulted in contact with 1,064 OHV users. Most of these contacts involved providing education to riders, but 68 citations for violations were issued during these projects.

Outdoor recreation recruitment and retention events continue to grow

Arizona Game and Fish continued its participation with an alliance of sportsmen's and conservation organizations to introduce people to hunting, fishing, target shooting, and other outdoor recreation. The Hunting and Angling Heritage Workgroup ran 45 recruitment and retention events from September 2011 through April 2012. These included small and big game hunt camps, target shooting events, trapping camps, and outdoor skills events. About 30 organizations were involved with the events, which drew more than 1,900 attendees (780 of the attendees were considered "primary participants"). Of those, 27 percent were new to hunting, and 26 percent came from non-hunting or non-fishing families. About 95 percent of the attendees said they planned to hunt in the future. The program was supported by a \$75,000 grant program provided by Arizona Game and Fish. These camps are made possible thanks to the many participating

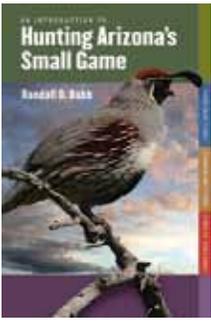


Bald eagles continue to make progress thanks to the efforts of the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the multi-partner Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee.

conservation organizations dedicated to passing on the passion for Arizona's wildlife and the hunting and fishing tradition to the next generation. Without their dedication, time and resources, these camps would not be possible. A list of upcoming events can be found at www.azgfd.gov/outdoorskills.

Arizona's bald eagles continue to set records in 2012

Arizona's bald eagle population again set productivity records in 2012. By the end of the breeding season, at least 80 bald eagle eggs were laid and a record 66 breeding areas were identified, including four new breeding areas. For only the third time, the number of nestlings that fledged exceeded 50, with 52 young birds making it to the important milestone of their first flight. The species' productivity records year after year indicate that bald eagles continue to flourish in the state thanks to management by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and a coalition of 25 other partners through the Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee. These include government agencies, private organizations and Native American tribes. Bald eagle conservation continues to be supported in part by the Heritage Fund, generated from lottery ticket sales.



“Hunting Arizona’s Small Game” offers information on small game species and how to hunt them.

New book introduces hunters to the pursuit of Arizona’s small game

The Arizona Game and Fish Department’s newest book, “An Introduction to Hunting Arizona’s Small Game,” became available in December 2012. The 198-page book is a fantastic resource that provides expert tips for hunting Arizona’s small game birds and mammals, from quail and doves to squirrels and rabbits. Extensively illustrated with color photos, it includes detailed descriptions of small game animals and specialized information about their behavior and habits. It helps new and experienced hunters alike select the right firearm, gear up for the hunt, succeed in the field, and care for the harvest. Written by Randall D. Babb, a biologist and hunter who heads up the Information and Education Program in the Department’s Mesa region, the book costs \$16.95 and can be purchased at Arizona Game and Fish Department offices or by downloading an order form from www.azgfd.gov/publications.

“Recreational Access Arizona” web tool shows land access

An exciting new web-based mapping tool, “Recreational Access Arizona,” provides hunters, anglers, and other outdoor recreationists with important information about access to and through private lands. The free tool, which utilizes GIS mapping technology, is available at www.azaccessmap.com. It was developed as part of the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s efforts to secure, maintain and enhance public recreational access to private lands or to federal or state-owned lands that are “land-locked” by private lands. It provides a wealth of other information, such as boundaries of game management units, location of water catchments, and more. Even more exciting is that you can create your own map using this tool with a topographic map, aerial images, or street maps as the background. Just export the map you make and print it out on your home printer, or take it in to a printing service to print a large map. Development and maintenance of

this tool was made possible through a grant that Game and Fish received from the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program, which is a federal program authorized in the 2012 Farm Bill.

Wildlife Contracts Branch offers science-based consulting services

The Arizona Game and Fish Department established a new branch, the Wildlife Contracts Branch, to offer expert, science-based services that help public agencies and private entities achieve their goals while helping to conserve, restore and manage Arizona’s natural resources. Services include research, analysis, monitoring and consulting on projects involving threatened and endangered species, wetland and habitat restoration, wildlife considerations for renewable energy, and wildlife habitat connectivity and corridors, among others. Potential clients include land management agencies, military installations, counties, municipalities, and private sector organizations. More information is available by contacting the Wildlife Contracts Branch Chief at (602) 942-3000.

Game and Fish explores license simplification

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department began the initial phase of seeking legislation for 2013 that would allow the Commission to establish a license structure directly through a customer-focused rulemaking process rather than setting it through the current complex process. The proposal would retain Legislative oversight. This new proposal, if the legislation were to pass, would offer several potential benefits, including a simpler, easier-to-understand structure for hunting, fishing and other licenses; better products with combined privileges; more flexibility for the Commission and Department to respond to customer demands and other conditions; and direct customer input opportunities with the Commission. A series of public meetings and a webcast were held in November to explain the proposal and gather public input.



Outdoor Expo draws 33,000 over weekend, record 5,000 on Youth Day

The 2012 Outdoor Expo drew more than 33,000 people over the March 31-April 1 weekend and a record 5,000 at the Friday, March 30 Youth Day. The three-day total is the second-highest for this annual event held by the Arizona Game and Fish Department at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix. The Expo gives the public the chance to learn about wildlife-related and outdoor recreation activities, including wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, archery, shooting sports, camping, off-highway vehicle recreation, and boating recreation. The 2013 Expo will be held March 23-24 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility.

Chronic wasting disease not found in Arizona deer or elk

The testing of 1,185 deer and elk samples taken during the 2011 hunting season did not detect presence of chronic wasting disease (CWD), a neurodegenerative wildlife disease that is fatal to cervids, including deer and elk. There is no evidence that CWD poses a risk to humans, according to the U.S. Centers for

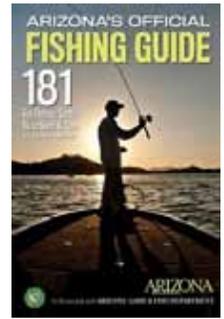
Disease Control. The Arizona Game and Fish Department began testing for CWD in Arizona in 1998 and has not yet detected any CWD-positive samples. Although the disease has not yet been found in Arizona, it has been detected in the neighboring states of Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. The Department continued its testing during the fall 2012 hunting season, enlisting the help of hunters, meat processors and taxidermists.

Arizona's Official Fishing Guide is great resource for anglers

A new, comprehensive Arizona fishing guide became available at the beginning of 2012. The book, "Arizona's Official Fishing Guide," was written by Rory Aikens, long-time editor of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Weekly Fishing Report (Aikens retired in September 2012). The joint project between Arizona Game and Fish and Arizona Highways magazine describes Arizona's lakes and streams, the fish that can be caught, the facilities available, and fishing tips. It also includes Internet contact information where possible, as well as GPS coordinates for all the lakes. The book is available from all Game and Fish offices, certain retail outlets, or online from azgfd.gov, Arizona Highways Magazine or amazon.com.

New movie promotes OHV safety

As part of its efforts to promote off-highway vehicle safety, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, in cooperation with the Southwest Alliance for Recreational Safety (SWA4RS), produced a new 28-minute OHV safety film. The film, "One Short Ride," tells the story of a typical Arizona outdoors enthusiast, who after making several good decisions, makes one bad one. It's a decision that could cost him his life and, in the end, it provides viewers with insights about how to prepare for a safe and enjoyable day riding OHVs in Arizona. Statistics released this year showed that fatalities from OHV accidents jumped from eight in 2010 to 29 in 2011. There were also 409 non-fatal inpatient hospitalizations and 1,611 non-fatal emergency



"Arizona's Official Fishing Guide" contains a wealth of information for anglers, including fishing tips for our state's lakes and streams.



Department hatcheries produce trout that are stocked in numerous waters for angler enjoyment.

room visits in 2011. Officials believe the increase in the number of fatalities and injuries is related to the increase in inexperienced riders, as well as riders not using safety equipment such as a helmet.

Hatcheries produce and stock trout for anglers statewide

The Arizona Game and Fish Department produced and stocked a total of 1,861,675 trout (rainbow, brook, brown, cutthroat, and Apache) during the past fiscal year. Of that total, the Department stocked 987,895 catchable trout, 134,113 sub-catchable trout, and 737,505 fingerling trout. About 795 stocking runs were made to distribute the trout into 87 approved waters in Arizona. The Department maintains and operates five fish hatcheries located throughout the state.

WSFR program recognizes 75 years of success

The Arizona Game and Fish Department joined other state and federal wildlife agencies, industry, and hunters and anglers in celebrating the 75th anniversary year of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR). The WSFR program is one of the most significant and successful partnership approaches to

fish and wildlife conservation in U.S. history. Beginning in 1937, with the passage of the Pittman-Robertson Act (and the subsequent passage of the

Dingell-Johnson Act and Wallop-Breaux Amendment), excise taxes on hunting gear (firearms, ammunition), certain fishing gear and boat fuel have been collected by the federal government and allocated to state fish and wildlife agencies for projects benefitting wildlife and fisheries conservation and public recreation. Since its 1937 beginnings, the WSFR program has provided more than \$14 billion nationally to benefit wildlife and the public.

Public input helps mold fall hunt recommendations

The tradition of public involvement in the establishment of hunt regulations continued this past year. The Department hosted public forums to discuss hunt recommendations in October for pronghorn and elk hunts, in March for fall hunts for deer, bighorn sheep, turkey, javelina, buffalo and bear, and in July for spring hunts for turkey, javelina, buffalo and bear. The forums were followed by a series of open houses where the public was given the chance to review the proposed recommendation packages. The public also had the ability to review the proposals on the Department's website and offer comment.

Sportsmen's Constituent Group formed

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department helped facilitate the formation of a new group in the aftermath of debate in the sportsmen's community over HB 2072 and other important issues related to hunting, fishing and wildlife management. The Department hosted a meeting in March to facilitate a discussion of how sportsmen/women and other wildlife enthusiasts can work together on issues and challenges. Any member of the public was welcome to attend, and the meeting was webcast. A subsequent meeting in May discussed vision, objectives, structure and future actions, and volunteers from the sportsmen's community stepped forward to form and provide leadership for the group, named the Sportsmen's Constituent Group, and take over operations going forward.



Urban Fishing Program brings angling enjoyment close to home

The Department's Urban Fishing Program provided fishing opportunities for more than 60,000 anglers in 2012. These anglers cumulatively fished for more than 620,000 days, representing 14 percent of all Arizona fishing activity. Program personnel coordinated and oversaw the stocking of 69,000 catchable rainbow trout into the 21 designated Urban Fishing Program waters in metro Phoenix, metro Tucson and Payson. All Urban lakes received nine trout stockings during the year, with Green Valley Lakes in Payson getting 15 stockings. The Phoenix and Tucson Urban lakes also received about 115,000 catchable channel catfish (totaling 168,730 pounds), with each lake getting seven stockings in the spring and four in the fall. Another 25,300 catchable bluegill and 7,000 juvenile largemouth bass were successfully delivered into the Phoenix and Tucson Urban waters. Altogether, a total of 466 fish stockings were made to Urban Fishing Program waters with a 100 percent on-time delivery success.

Natural resource injury case settled regarding mine

The U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona approved a \$6.8 million settlement in June for natural resource damages under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) resulting from the release of hazardous substances from the Freeport Morenci mine, located in east-central Arizona. The settlement was the result of several years of negotiations among Freeport-McMoRan Corporation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Settlement negotiations began in 2003 after Freeport-McMoRan voluntarily reported bird mortalities at Freeport's Morenci tailings pond. The settlement money will be held in the Interior Department's Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund until

restoration projects are selected. Restoration projects will be designed to restore, rehabilitate or replace injuries to terrestrial, aquatic and avian habitats.

Wildlife and Conservation Education programs touch many Arizonans

The Arizona Game and Fish Department continued its wide range of educational outreach to the public over the past year. In the area of wildlife education, Department staff and volunteers provided live wildlife education and hands on learning experiences to over 250,000 members of the public at events, workshops, expos and fairs throughout the state in fiscal year 2011-12. In the area of formal education, approximately 9,750 4th grade students in 336 classrooms across Arizona received a live wildlife education program correlated to Arizona's Academic Content standards. About 2,000 educators received training on and used Focus Wild Arizona's educational resources, potentially providing thousands of K-12 students with wildlife education. About 2,070 K-12 students participated in hands-on wildlife education activities throughout the state through summer camps, classroom programs, homeschool activities and field-based research events. In the area of hunter education, the volunteer instructors participating in the Department's Hunter Education Program conducted 193 courses, and 3,892 students successfully completed the courses and received their hunter education certification. The Department's sport fish education program conducted 178 fishing clinics or related programs, reaching more than 18,800 participants. In the area of boating education, the Department held 43 classroom courses with 436 students receiving certification. An additional 477 students completed the online boating education course, and our partners, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, taught 62 students. In the area of off-highway vehicle (OHV) education, 103 students completed the online Internet-based course.



Bighorn sheep translocations help augment populations in areas of need.

CONSERVATION

Translocations help bighorn sheep populations

Arizona Game and Fish personnel conducted several bighorn sheep translocations to augment populations in areas of need. Thirty-five bighorn sheep were captured in Unit 15D and released in Unit 15BW. Nine ewes and three rams from this capture were fitted with real-time GPS radio telemetry collars that will transmit movement data for more than two years. Another 55 bighorn sheep were captured, fitted with real-time GPS radio telemetry collars, and released on site in Units 15C and 15BW as part of a research project. Thirty desert bighorn sheep were captured in Units 22 and 24B (Saguaro/Canyon/Apache lakes area along the Salt River) and released into the Mineral Mountains of Unit 37B. Seven ewes and three rams from this capture were fitted with real-time GPS radio telemetry collars that will transmit movement data for more than two years.

AZGFD partners with ADOT to enhance wildlife movement, highway safety

The Arizona Game and Fish Department continues to partner with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other cooperators in seeking ways to facilitate wildlife habitat connectivity and movement across roadways while making travel safer for motorists. One recent project has included the installation of new 8-foot “exclusion fences” on Interstate 17 near Munds Park. The rate of elk-vehicle collisions here is one of the highest in the state. As part of the project, biologists fitted elk with radio transmitter collars, followed their daily movements, and collected information about where elk cross the highway and how often. Biologists used that information to identify location of fencing that included the Woods and Munds Canyon bridges. The fencing project was funded by ADOT and FHWA through the Transportation Enhancement Program.

Biologists discover fish species not found in Grand Canyon in more than 20 years

Arizona Game and Fish biologists, working on a collaborative fish research project with the U.S. Geological Survey’s Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center, in October caught a native razorback sucker, an endangered fish species that had not been captured in the Grand Canyon in 22 years. The fish was an adult male more than 20 inches in length and was caught during a nighttime electrofishing survey, a monitoring technique that uses a non-lethal electrical current to temporarily stun fish so they can be processed by biologists and then safely released. Processing includes taking length measurements, assessing condition and tagging them with a small identification microchip to allow biologists to compare data from that same fish if it is caught again. The finding shows that native fish restoration programs on the Colorado River are contributing to the successful conservation of the species. Game and Fish’s Bubbling Ponds

Hatchery outside of Sedona plays a key role in propagating native fish, including razorback suckers, as part of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, an effort to restore and conserve native species along the Lower Colorado River.

Water developments help wildlife

Throughout the course of 2012, the Department's Water Development Section redeveloped 10 old or dysfunctional water catchments and built two new catchments. Redeveloping the 10 catchments ensures they are now permanent water sources enhancing approximately 45,000 acres of wildlife habitat. Adding the two new catchments improved water availability to an additional 9,000 acres of habitat. Even with a dry winter and spring, Arizona Game and Fish personnel hauled a reported 245,000 gallons to various water catchments around the state (before 2006, the average hauled equaled 400,000 gallons). This shows that the 263 water catchments that have been built/rebuilt since 2006 are reducing the agency's water hauling need and load and are providing a more permanent water source for wildlife across the state.

Record number of volunteers assist ferret spotlighting effort

A record number of volunteers assisted in the effort to document the population of endangered black-footed ferrets in Aubrey Valley, just west of Seligman. Arizona Game and Fish partnered with 144 volunteers for the fall spotlighting effort from Sept. 27-Oct. 1 to count the elusive predators. Spotlighting from dusk-to-dawn is the method used to capture the animals and document the population. The 57 individuals captured during the event brought the 2012 total to 110, just short of the record 116 counted in 2011. The effort did set a one-night record when 23 individual ferrets were trapped, breaking the previous mark of 22. The numbers remain good in Aubrey Valley considering the black-footed ferret once numbered just 18 in the world when captive breeding efforts began in 1985.



Rotenone Review Advisory Committee issues final report

A blue-ribbon advisory committee that extensively studied the use of rotenone reaffirmed the Arizona Game and Fish Department's belief that it is an important fisheries management tool that can be used safely and effectively. Rotenone is a naturally occurring substance that has been safely used as a piscicide (a pesticide used in limited applications to remove undesired fish) in North America for decades for native fish recovery or aquatic invasive species control. Due to concerns expressed last year by some constituents about perceptions of potential environmental or human health impacts from exposure, Directory Larry Voyles temporarily halted the Department's use of rotenone in Arizona. In June 2011, he authorized the formation of the Rotenone Review Advisory Committee to thoroughly study the issue and make recommendations. The Committee, composed of experts from more than 20 other agencies and stakeholders, reviewed the best available scientific reports and research, gathered input from other experts, and provided technical

A record number of volunteers helped with the black-footed ferret fall population survey.

Biologists do identification banding of bald eagle nestlings to help monitor the population.



expertise and analysis. The Committee's final report and recommendations were accepted and approved by Director Voyles in January 2012, and those recommendations have been incorporated into revamped Department procedures. As a result of the Committee's recommendations and their incorporation into Department procedures, Arizona Game and Fish lifted its self-imposed moratorium on the use of rotenone or other registered piscicides in June 2012.

Experts discuss quail conservation at national symposium in Tucson

The Arizona Game and Fish Department served as host agency for the prestigious Quail 7 National Symposium in Tucson on Jan. 10-12. The symposium, which is the largest periodic meeting of quail scientists and managers in the country, marked the seventh gathering of experts who convene every five years to deliver and discuss findings on biology, ecology, conservation, genetics, economics, hunting, and social science. It involved two days of educational and informative presentations and several field trips on the third day. The presentations focused on quail populations,

current trends, and the need for science-driven data to manage quail. Quail 7 sponsors included the National Bobwhite Technical Committee, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Safari Club International, The Wildlife Society, and the Arizona Game Rangers.

Biologists use innovative man-made nest to help breeding pair of eagles

After three consecutive years of failing to fledge its young bald eagles, an important Arizona nest site is back to adding to the growth of the state's bald eagle population with two nestlings surviving to fledge on their own. The nest became a challenge for the Arizona Game and Fish Department's bald eagle biologists when it began to fail at producing young eagles that made it to fledging age after many years of consecutive success. In 2009, biologists were alerted to a problem when two of the nestlings jumped from the nest and ended up on the ground. Nestwatchers assigned to monitor the nest as part of the Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program noticed the birds on the ground, and biologists intervened. An examination showed the nestlings were covered in ticks that were slowly killing them. During the identification

banding of the nestlings in 2010, biologists found the source of the ticks in one of the nest's main support branches. Unfortunately, treating the nestlings and infested area proved unsuccessful, so Game and Fish then took extraordinary measures: they carefully removed the tick-infested nest after the nesting season, transported it offsite to be burned, and began to build two man-made nests away from the old nest tree. The male and female eagles used one of the man-made nests in 2012 and fledged the first two young to survive since 2008.

Agencies treat Fossil Creek to remove non-native smallmouth bass

The Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted efforts in September to rid Fossil Creek, in north-central Arizona, of unwanted smallmouth bass. The non-native bass had reinvaded a portion of the stream in 2011 when an unusually large storm deposited rocks and boulders below a fish barrier, giving the bass an avenue to get up and over the barrier. The rock debris was removed this year, restoring the function of the fish barrier. Biologists then applied rotenone, a naturally occurring chemical piscicide, to a portion of the creek to remove the smallmouth bass. As an added precaution, potassium permanganate was applied below the treated area to expeditiously neutralize the rotenone. The project required the temporary closure of part of the Fossil Creek area to public access for about two weeks to accommodate the renovation effort. In 2004, non-native species were removed from Fossil Creek in a major multi-stakeholder effort to create a unique sanctuary for native aquatic species, including roundtail chub and headwater chub.

Game and Fish, ADOT to host major environmental conference in 2013

The Arizona Department of Transportation and the Arizona Game and Fish Department will host the next International Conference on Ecology and Transportation (ICOET) on June 23-27, 2013 in Scottsdale, Ariz., to help

showcase collaborative efforts between the two agencies. This major conference is held every two years and will highlight achievements and research related to ecology and transportation planning. Some of the work that will be highlighted includes the innovative wildlife crossings along Arizona highways that make roads safer for motorists while facilitating wildlife movement within their habitat.

New jaguar, ocelot photos

An adult male jaguar and an adult male ocelot were photographed in two separate southern Arizona mountain ranges by automated wildlife monitoring cameras as part of the Jaguar Survey and Monitoring Project led by the University of Arizona. In late November 2012, the UA project team downloaded photos from wildlife cameras set up as part of the research project and found new pictures of a jaguar in the Santa Rita Mountains. A total of ten jaguar photos were taken by three UA cameras and one Arizona Game and Fish Department camera. The cat's unique spot pattern matched that of a male jaguar in the Whetstone Mountains photographed by a hunter in the fall of 2011, providing evidence that the big cats travel between southern Arizona's "sky island" mountain ranges. A September 2012 jaguar "tail" photo was previously reported by the Arizona Game and Fish Department from a hunter's automated wildlife monitoring camera in the Santa Rita Mountains. None of the UA photos could be matched to this "tail" photo because, in the new photos, the tail was obscured or the opposite side of the jaguar was photographed. However, the jaguar is most likely the same individual. In addition, a new ocelot photo was taken in the Huachuca Mountains west of Sierra Vista by one of the UA project cameras. Comparisons of the spot patterns revealed this to be the same male ocelot that has been reported by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and photographed in the Huachuca several times in 2011 and 2012.

Hunters are helping endangered California condors through their participation in AZGFD's voluntary lead reduction efforts.



ISSUES

AZGFD files to intervene in condor-lead ammunition lawsuit

The State of Arizona, on behalf of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, in November filed a motion to intervene in a lawsuit filed against the Kaibab National Forest by the Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council and Center for Biological Diversity. The environmental groups want the U.S. Forest Service to stop the disposal of lead ammunition in the Kaibab National Forest in northern Arizona. Arizona Game and Fish contends that, under the law, the authority governing the use of lead ammunition in hunting rests only with the State. The Commission also believes that a voluntary, cooperative effort to reduce lead available to condors is the best approach for long-term success of the condor program, and a mandatory ban could create a backlash against condor conservation and hinder future endangered species' reintroductions done under the 10(j) Rule of the Endangered Species Act. Arizona Game and Fish began a voluntary, hunter-supported non-lead program in 2003 to reduce the amount of lead available to condors. Before the program began, estimates showed that less than four percent of successful Kaibab deer hunters used non-lead ammunition.

Now, nearly 90 percent of the state's hunters in condor range have taken voluntary lead-reduction measures over the past five years by using non-lead ammunition or removing gut piles from the field. The Utah Division of Wildlife also recently began a voluntary non-lead program. The State of California banned lead ammunition in California's condor range in 2008, but a recent study concluded that condor lead poisoning has not been significantly reduced in that condor population. Lead poisoning is the leading cause of death in condors and the main obstacle to a self-sustaining population in Arizona and Utah. Endangered California condors were first reintroduced into northern Arizona in 1996 under the 10(j) umbrella when six captive-bred birds flew free from the rugged cliffs of the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. Now, there are currently about 77 condors soaring free in northern Arizona and southern Utah and more than 400 in the world. The Arizona-Utah condor conservation effort is a joint project of many partners, including The Peregrine Fund, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Kaibab National Forest and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.



Outdoor recreationists should be aware that the various national forests in Arizona are implementing new travel management rules.

Law enforcement guidance issued on forest travel management rules

In response to concerns from outdoor enthusiasts who are uncertain about the U.S. Forest Service's new travel management rules going into effect in Arizona's national forests, the Arizona Game and Fish Department issued law enforcement guidance to its wildlife officers to help ensure fair and consistent treatment of individuals who may be found in violation of specific rules. The guidance applies only to Arizona Game and Fish officers, and other jurisdictions may handle the enforcement of travel management rules differently. Over a period of several years, each national forest in Arizona has been working on establishing its own rules imposing certain restrictions on motor vehicle use. Some of the activities affected by the new restrictions include motorized retrieval of legally taken big game, dispersed camping, and road closures. Because the various travel management rules are inconsistent across the different national forests and may cause confusion among recreationists, Game and Fish recently issued its guidelines to educate recreationists who do not understand

or who are confused by the new regulations. Game and Fish has been negotiating with and providing input to the Forest Service on travel management plans since 2005, but despite the Department's best efforts, there are still concerns about confusing or inconsistent travel management rules over the various forests.

Three people injured in three separate bear attacks

Three people were injured in three separate bear incidents over a four-week period in May and June, in an area, about 15 miles east of Payson, Ariz. On June 24, a Tempe man was severely injured when a bear attacked him in his tent at Ponderosa Campground in the Tonto National Forest, just off Highway 260. The attack occurred at approximately 5 a.m. The victim suffered lacerations and bites to his head, arm and legs. On June 21, a bear entered an unfinished cabin in the Thompson Draw II subdivision near Tonto Village, about a mile from Ponderosa Campground, and bit a sleeping Glendale man on the leg. His injuries were non-life-threatening. On May 31, a bear entered a tent at the campground and clawed a woman. Her injuries were non-life-threatening.

Extensive efforts were made by Department personnel to locate and trap the bear or bears involved in the attacks. Bear attacks on humans are rare. Even with the three incidents in 2012, there have been only 10 documented bear attacks in Arizona since 1990. The Department has information on its website at www.azgfd.gov to help people minimize the chance of human-bear conflicts.

Largemouth bass virus detected in Lake Pleasant

Lab tests on largemouth bass tissue samples collected at Lake Pleasant during a routine survey in October by Arizona Game and Fish Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel showed the presence of largemouth bass virus in some samples. While the virus can affect largemouth bass, it doesn't pose a risk to people and pets, and the water is safe for drinking water supply and recreation. Prior to this sampling, the only fish health survey that had been conducted at Lake Pleasant was in 2002, and largemouth bass virus was not detected then. Therefore, the virus most likely entered the Lake Pleasant fishery within the past 10 years. Game and Fish has not documented any fish kills at Lake Pleasant associated with the virus as of this writing, and fishing has been very productive. Lake Pleasant is the top fishing recreation site in Arizona, producing more than 520,000 angler use days. The virus has been found in 18 states dating back to 1991. In Arizona, Saguaro Lake, Bartlett Lake, Roosevelt Lake, and now Lake Pleasant have tested positive for the disease. There have been no impacts attributable to largemouth bass virus at Saguaro, Bartlett or Roosevelt to date.

Commission votes to oppose HB 2072 (sale of big game tags)

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission voted unanimously on Jan. 10 to oppose proposed Arizona House Bill 2072, a bill that would have reserved a large number of big game tags for a "qualified organization" to resell at auction or raffle. The proposed bill generated passionate

discussion among the sportsmen community and was ultimately withdrawn by the sponsor during the legislative session.

3 species added to Arizona's aquatic invasive species list

The Arizona Game and Fish Department in 2012 added three species—northern snakehead, Asian carp, and apple snail—to the Director's Orders list of aquatic invasive species. All three can be potentially harmful to the state's aquatic ecosystems. The Directors Orders help address monitoring and the prevention of spread of aquatic invasive plants and wildlife in Arizona. Key aspects of the Director's Orders include the requirement for people to clean, drain and dry their boats for a specified period of time before moving them from waters known to have these species to another water in the state. Species currently on the list include quagga and zebra mussels, New Zealand mudsnails, didymo (rock snot), giant salvinia, rusty crayfish, and red claw crayfish. The Department conducted a public input process before approving the proposed additions.

AZGFD provides comments on federal jaguar habitat proposal

The Arizona Game and Fish Department in October submitted comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on the FWS proposal to designate critical habitat for jaguars in Arizona and New Mexico. Arizona Game and Fish is committed to the conservation of all of Arizona's diverse wildlife species, but critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act is a legal designation that must meet defined criteria within the Act. Those criteria have not been met for jaguars. The Department has asked that the proposal be withdrawn because conservation of the species is entirely reliant on activities in the jaguar's primary habitat of Central and South America to be successful. Lands in Arizona and New Mexico make up less than one percent of the species' historic range and are not essential to the conservation of the species. The FWS proposal considers



The U.S. Forest Service awarded a stewardship agreement to move forward with much-needed forest thinning, as part of the Four Forests Restoration Initiative.

jaguar occurrence from 1962 to 2011. All of the available information from that time frame and even decades before consistently indicates that Arizona does not provide habitat that is critical to jaguar conservation. Male jaguars from Mexico infrequently use southern Arizona as they roam. Females have not been confirmed in Arizona since 1962, and no breeding populations of jaguars exist now or ever have been documented in the U.S., even in historical times. Game and Fish believes that the unwarranted designation of critical habitat for jaguars would likely result in denial of access to lands for jaguar conservation and research efforts, fewer observations of jaguars being reported, less timely sighting reports from people that do choose to report a jaguar, and an increased likelihood of illegal activities which undermine endangered species conservation.

Game and Fish applauds award of contract for forest restoration

The Arizona Game and Fish Department applauded the U.S. Forest Service's action to advance much-needed forest thinning in Arizona through its award of a stewardship agreement. The agreement, awarded after a

lengthy review process, is the largest ever issued by the Forest Service, covering restoration thinning treatment of 300,000 acres on the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab and Tonto national forests over a 10-year period. The thinning treatments are a core element of the Four Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI), a collaborative effort to improve forest health and wildlife habitat, reduce wildfire risk, and develop a new sustainable forest products industry in northern Arizona. Game and Fish has supported and participated in 4FRI since its inception, working closely with the Forest Service and other stakeholders to ensure that restoration efforts yield the greatest possible benefit to forest ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and local economies.

Citations issued for quagga-contaminated boats

The need for vigilance in preventing the spread of invasive quagga mussels was demonstrated this summer when Arizona Game and Fish officers issued citations to two individuals who brought boats containing quaggas to Lake Powell. Fortunately, the mussels on

Quagga mussels can colonize rapidly on hard surfaces and clog boat motors and water system intake pipes. Boaters need to clean, drain and dry their boats after every use.



the boats were discovered at Lake Powell's decontamination station prior to launching. One of the vessels had mussels on its anchor, which many people forget to clean, and the boat owner neglected to remove the plug before leaving Lake Pleasant. The incident highlighted why boaters coming from lakes known to contain quagga mussels, such as Pleasant, Mead, Mohave and Havasu, need to be conscientious about taking legally required precautions to not inadvertently move these invasive mollusks to other waters, such as Powell. Boaters can comply with the law by cleaning, draining and drying their watercraft and equipment. Since 2010, when quagga and zebra mussels were initially listed in the Director's Orders as part of the effort to prevent the spread of these invasive mussels, there have been no new adult infestations at this time in any major water bodies in Arizona.

Golden alga causes fish kills on Upper Salt River and Roosevelt Lake

Golden alga blooms caused a major fish die-off in July on the Salt River upstream of its confluence with Roosevelt Lake, and another, smaller die-off in September on Roosevelt Lake itself. The July fish kill involved multiple species along a 20-mile stretch of the Salt River just

upstream from where it flows into the east side of the lake, but it did not extend to the lake itself. The September event at Roosevelt Lake primarily impacted gizzard shad and smaller threadfin shad. Golden alga can produce a toxin that impacts the gills of fish and causes them to suffocate, but it does not pose a known threat to humans. Although golden alga fish kills have occurred in a number of states, scientists are still not sure what environmental conditions actually result in golden alga periodically producing toxins. Small systems such as urban ponds can be treated to eliminate golden alga, but there is currently no way to treat large system reservoirs or rivers. Arizona Game and Fish will continue to investigate the situation and monitor waterways along the Salt River, including Apache, Canyon and Saguaro lakes.

Commission opposes proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument

Citing a long list of concerns, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission on May 11 voted to oppose the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. The monument, which was proposed by the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Center for Biological Diversity and the Wilderness Society, would encompass

1.7 million acres of northern Arizona. The Commission pointed out that the vast majority of the lands in question are already public lands currently managed and adequately conserved under multiple-use concepts, primarily by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, although the proposal would also impact State Trust Lands and private holdings as well. The Commission expressed concern that the monument designation could impact public access, recreation, and the ability of the Commission and Department to manage wildlife. The Commission also adopted a resolution concerning the continuing and cumulative effects that special land use designations have on multiple-use lands, including effects on access, conservation efforts and wildlife-related recreation. The Commission pointed out that the resolution does not preempt future discussions and dialogues, but rather, sets the appropriate stage for them.

Whirling disease reconfirmed at Lees Ferry

The parasite that causes whirling disease has been reconfirmed at the Lees Ferry fishery within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. To date, no trout have displayed symptoms of the disease, and in fact, some of the best fishing in more than a decade has been reported. Whirling disease can affect trout but is not harmful to humans. It is caused by a microscopic parasite that damages cartilage and the nervous system of trout and other salmonids, but no other fish species. This is the second time whirling disease has been found in trout at the Ferry. The first detection here was in 2007. Officials don't know how the parasite came to be at Lees Ferry or how it might manifest itself. No fish die-offs here due to the whirling disease parasite have been seen as of this writing. The disease can sometimes cause significant trout population losses, especially among young or immature fish. The parasite is found in 25 states, including Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Arizona. Cleaning and decontaminating equipment is the best defense against transporting the parasite.

Striped bass consumption advisory issued for southern Lake Powell

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, in association with other environmental, health and wildlife agencies for both Arizona and Utah (including the Arizona Game and Fish Department), in October issued a fish consumption advisory recommending that people limit consumption of striped bass caught in the southern portion of Lake Powell, from Dangling Rope Marina in Utah to Glen Canyon Dam in Arizona. The advisory does not limit the consumption of other fish species taken from Lake Powell or the use of the lake for swimming, boating or other recreational uses or as a drinking water source. The specifics of the advisory can be found on the Arizona Game and Fish website at www.azgfd.gov. Since 2005, the state of Utah has collected and analyzed tissue samples from fish caught from Lake Powell for elevated levels of mercury. Any health risks associated with eating fish from fish advisory areas are based on long-term consumption rates and are not tied to eating fish occasionally. Fish are an excellent source of protein and can be an important part of a healthy, diverse diet.

MISCELLANEOUS

Changes to fishing regulations approved for 2013

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission approved several amendments to the fishing regulations that will take effect in 2013. They include: (1) removal of the special regulation (slot limit) for bass at Alamo Lake so that the limit for bass at the lake will revert to the statewide limit of six; (2) extension of the "catch-and-release only" special regulation for bass at Pena Blanca Lake through 2014; (3) creation of special regulations for bass, catfish and trout at Cataract Lake and Kaibab Lake that include a 13-inch minimum size limit for bass and reduced limits (two bass, four catfish and four trout) at these lakes; (4) establishment of gizzard shad as a legal live baitfish from

The statewide bag limit for javelina was raised to two per calendar year, with no more than one taken per open area as defined in each hunt number.



certain legal areas only (see the 2013 fishing regulations for a description of those areas); (5) creation of special regulations for channel catfish at Parker Canyon Lake that include a reduced four channel catfish limit. The Department incorporated an extensive public input component leading up to Commission approval of the amendments, including public meetings, a printed survey, and a comment period.

Bag limit on javelina is raised for 2013

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission approved raising the statewide bag limit for javelina, beginning in 2013, to two per calendar year, with no more than one taken per open area as defined in each hunt number. The bag limit may be filled in any combination of permit-tags (draw tag or first-come leftover draw tag as long as they have differing hunt numbers) or nonpermit-tags (over-the-counter tags). No more than one permit-tag shall be issued per hunter through the initial draw.

New legislation affects hunters

New bills passed by the Arizona Legislature in 2012 have resulted in amended laws affecting

hunters. In summary, the new laws: (1) eliminate restrictions on magazine capacity (except that federal regulations for migratory game birds still apply); (2) allow the use of silencers (the law does not negate the need to comply with federal regulations relative to the possession and use of silencers); (3) allow possession of weapons while hunting which are legal to possess, but not authorized for the taking of wildlife; (4) make the use of weapons not authorized for the taking of wildlife a class 1 misdemeanor; (5) eliminate restrictions on selling bighorn sheep parts. The laws took effect in August.

Wildlife Health Program

The Department's Wildlife Health Program continued to actively investigate wildlife mortalities to monitor for wildlife diseases and to monitor wildlife health in various research projects. Fifty-seven wildlife mortality events were investigated over the past year. Nine events involved multiple animals and 48 consisted of single animal mortalities. A proximate cause for mortality was determined for 43 of the cases. Those causes included undifferentiated bacterial infection (nine cases), fungal infection (four cases), viral infection (seven cases), trauma (seven cases), poison (five cases), and pneumonia (four cases). The Wildlife Health Program assessed the body condition of 31 mule deer on the Kaibab Plateau for a three-year habitat and population management research project. The program also evaluated the health status of two groups of bighorn sheep (eight Rocky Mountain and 17 desert bighorn) and 26 Sonoran pronghorn that were moved to new locations within the state.

AWARDS

Game and Fish personnel receive honors

Several Arizona Game and Fish Department employees received prestigious honors this year.

Officer **Tim Baumgarten** received the esteemed "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the National Association of State Boating Law

Administrators (NASBLA) at the organization's 53rd annual meeting in Mobile, Ala., Sept. 8-12. Baumgarten has spent more than 30 years in recreational boating safety law enforcement.



He was a part of the first OUI (Operating Under the Influence) checkpoint in Arizona in 1993 and has personally accounted for well over 120 OUI arrests in his career. Since then, he has participated in and supervised more than 95 Arizona sobriety checkpoints, more than any other watercraft officer nationwide. In the biggest advancement in alcohol enforcement in over 20 years, Officer Baumgarten was the driving force in the multi-year validation study of the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs). As a direct result of his expertise, these tests are now standardized and validated for use by watercraft officers nationally.

Officer **David Rigo** was recognized as one of the "OUI Enforcement Officers of the Year" at the annual Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) DUI Law Enforcement Recognition Awards on Sept. 14. Rigo, a 10-year veteran with the Arizona Game and Fish Department,

worked with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and MADD to facilitate an interagency saturation patrol effort on Lake Pleasant, focused on removing impaired operators and creating public awareness. The patrol was a success and resulted in more than 250 boater contacts, 69 citations and six arrests for impaired operation.

Officer **Dan Dymond** was named Arizona Wildlife Officer of the Year for 2012 by Shikar-Safari Club International. The award is presented annually in each state by the worldwide conservation organization in recognition of officers who have demonstrated a history of "exemplary performance in the protection of wildlife, enforcement of game laws and implementation of conservation programs."

Volunteer Administrator **Jamie Lyons** received the ATHENA Young Professional Award from the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce in October. The honor not only recognizes her outstanding contributions in her daily work as the Arizona Game and Fish Department's volunteer administrator, where she manages more than 3,000 volunteers statewide in support of the Department's activities, but also her inspirational role as founder of the Veteran Career Assistance Foundation, a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) organization that helps military veterans returning home prepare for the transition into the civilian workforce.

AZ Wildlife Views TV receives international recognition

Arizona Wildlife Views, the Emmy award-winning television show produced by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, was recognized by the International Wildlife Film Festival with an Honorable Mention for its video, "Sonoran Pronghorn: Back to the Wild". The video features the recovery efforts by Arizona Game and Fish, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other cooperating partners to help save the endangered Sonoran pronghorn and return it to its home range in southern Arizona. The festival, held in May in Missoula,

Officer Tim Baumgarten (left) received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

The “U.S. 93 Hoover Dam to Milepost 17” project, which includes three innovative bighorn sheep overpasses to assist with wildlife movement and motorist safety, won the 2012 National Environmental Excellence Award in the conservation category.



Mont., was the 35th annual for this event, considered one of the premier festivals of its type in the world.

U.S. 93 project receives National Environmental Excellence Award

The “U.S. 93 Hoover Dam to Milepost 17” project, completed in late 2010, received the 2012 National Environmental Excellence Award in the conservation category from the National Association of Environmental Professionals. The project is the final section that provides motorists with a continuous four-lane divided highway from Interstate 40 in Kingman to the new Mike O’Callaghan – Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge over Hoover Dam. The project, a collaboration between the Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Federal Highways Administration, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society and other partners, received national recognition for three wildlife overpasses to protect motorists and provide safe crossings of U.S. 93 for the important desert bighorn sheep population that is the largest contiguous desert

bighorn herd in the United States. This is the fifth major award this project has received.

Game and Fish wins 12 awards for publications, videos

The Arizona Game and Fish Department was recognized during the 18th annual Communicator Awards with 12 awards for its publications and video productions, including a first-place Award of Excellence for the photograph of a Chiricahua leopard frog by George Andrejko featured on the cover of the Department’s July-August 2011 Arizona Wildlife Views magazine. Another first-place award was received for the online documentary, “Eagle Nest Down,” produced by Carol Lynde, featuring Arizona Game and Fish biologists taking measures to save future eagles from tick infestations in the nest. The winners were selected from a field of more than 6,000 entries submitted by companies and agencies worldwide. The Department also won 10 Awards of Distinction for videos, articles, photos and design.



Bighorn sheep are increasingly using the overpasses over Highway 93.

Arizona rancher wins national wildlife stewardship award

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 2012 chose Arizona rancher Jim O'Haco of the O'Haco Cattle Company in Winslow as the recipient of the National Private Lands Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Award. The annual award recognizes the contributions of private farms, ranches and forest lands to conserve the nation's fish and wildlife resources. O'Haco owns and operates a working cattle ranch in north-central Arizona that provides habitat for numerous species, including grassland birds, raptors, turkey, mule deer, bear, antelope, elk, fox, bobcats and mountain lions. As a third generation rancher, he uses agricultural practices that are economically sustainable as well as beneficial to wildlife, and he allows free public access on the ranch for recreation and hunting. O'Haco was nominated for the award by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

AZGFD receives national conservation communications awards

The Arizona Game and Fish Department received eight awards (three 1st-place, two 2nd-place and two 3rd-place) at the annual meeting of the Association for Conservation Information, which is made up of state and federal fish and wildlife agencies and outside organizations from across the country. First-place awards were in the brochure category ("Non-lead ammunition: Conserving wildlife with superior performance", produced by Lynda Lambert and Kathy Sullivan), the photography category ("Rainbow trout release," George Andrejko, photographer), and the magazine destination/historical/cultural writing category ("Strike up the band," Julie Hammonds, associate editor, Arizona Wildlife Views magazine).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal Year Revenues by Fund	2010-11	2011-12
Game and Fish Fund	\$26,918,142	28,444,410
Watercraft Licensing Fund.....	4,472,208	4,290,224
Game, Nongame Fund.....	157,478	156,059
Federal Assistance (Includes Matching Funds).....	35,173,247	33,089,696
Heritage Fund.....	10,093,287	10,128,637
Off-highway Vehicle Fund.....	1,528,169	1,597,076
Capital Improvement/Conservation Dev. Funds.....	1,487,094	1,484,568
Wildlife Conservation Fund.....	5,583,115	6,123,790
Indirect Cost Fund.....	3,233,706	2,866,799
Other Funds (See Detail Below).....	2,943,175	3,761,039
Total Revenue All Sources	\$91,589,621	\$91,942,298

Other Funds Detail

GF Land and Water Conservation/ Recreation Development.....	\$218	281
Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund.....	163,369	181,475
Waterfowl Conservation Fund.....	83,057	80,151
Wildlife Endowment Fund.....	114,501	132,512
Interagency Service Agreement Fund.....	12,200	244,450
Federal Economic Recovery Fund.....	184,170	255,661
Trust/Donation Fund.....	2,182,877	2,622,931
Firearms Safety and Ranges Fund.....	25	72
W/L Habitat and Restoration Fund.....	2	3
Game & Fish California/Coll Stamp.....	1,635	56,341
Game & Fish Kaibab Coop.....	40,971	36,993
Publications Revolving Fund.....	160,150	150,169
Total Other Funds	\$2,943,175	\$3,761,039

Fiscal Year Expenditures by Fund	2010-11	2011-12
Game and Fish Fund	29,854,206	25,858,590
Watercraft Licensing Fund.....	3,152,447	4,003,743
Game, Nongame Fund.....	227,594	205,567
Federal Assistance (Includes Matching Funds).....	35,156,740	33,950,296
Heritage Fund.....	10,792,511	4,431,168
Off-highway Vehicle Fund.....	1,463,328	1,496,119
Capital Improvement/Conservation Dev. Funds.....	1,890,567	2,331,421
Wildlife Conservation Fund.....	5,112,333	5,945,743
Indirect Cost Fund.....	2,480,281	3,394,312
Other Funds (See Detail Below).....	3,095,261	3,706,373
Total Expenditures All Sources	\$93,225,268	\$84,323,332

Other Funds Detail

Federal Grants.....	\$89,436	16,148
Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund.....	182,264	155,524
Waterfowl Conservation Fund.....	159,547	151,074
Interagency Service Agreement Fund.....	10,185	27,980
Federal Economic Recovery Fund.....	169,285	239,650
Trust/Donation Fund.....	2,323,860	1,907,908
Firearms Safety and Ranges Fund.....	0	0
Game & Fish Kaibab Coop.....	7,788	69,710
Publications Revolving Fund.....	152,896	138,379
Total Other Funds	\$3,095,261	\$2,706,373

Calendar Year Sales in Numbers by Group	2010	2011
Licenses (see detail below)	440,318	428,056
Resident Trout Stamps.....	71,677	62,725
Nonresident Trout Stamps.....	253	168
Tags (excluding special hunts).....	155,927	165,872
Misc Permits/Licenses.....	2,373	1,998
Special Use Licenses/Stamps.....	38,331	37,017
Misc No Cost Licenses/Permits.....	-	4,555
Two Pole Stamp.....	58,053	57,552
Resident Additional Day Stamps.....	1,876	1,639
Nonresident Additional Day Stamps.....	1,860	1,681
Arizona Waterfowl Stamps.....	6,000	5,853
Migratory Bird Stamps.....	47,488	46,546
Kaibab 12A Habitat Stamps.....	2,017	1,681
Restricted Non-permit Tags.....	1	0
Supplemental Hunt Tags.....	48	19
Companion Hunt Tags.....	163	126
Totals	826,385	815,488

Lifetime License/Stamp Sales	2010	2011
Lifetime License Sales Fish.....	62	43
Lifetime License Sales Hunt.....	84	91
Lifetime License Sales Combo.....	126	91
Lifetime License Sales Trout Stamps.....	36	34
Wildlife Benefactor Combo License.....	3	17
Totals	311	276

Calendar Year License Sales by Category	2010	2011
Resident General Fish.....	142,410	131,614
Nonresident General Fish.....	774	768
Family/Primary Fish.....	4,975	5,181
Family/Spouse Fish.....	2,576	2,713
Family/Child Fish.....	2,241	2,089
Resident Super Fish/Trout/Urban License.....	12,808	13,433
Nonresident Super Fish/Trout/Urban License.....	1,854	1,868
Resident General Hunt.....	57,521	57,528
Nonresident General Hunt.....	19,494	19,894
Computer Family/Primary Hunt.....	702	890
Computer Family/Secondary (Spouse) Hunt.....	343	443
Computer Family/Youth & Child/10-13 Hunt.....	2,012	2,429
Resident Hunt/Fish.....	71,978	71,725
Nonresident Hunt/Fish.....	554	480
Computer Family/Primary Hunt/Fish.....	2,734	3,328
Computer Family/Secondary Hunt/Fish.....	1,461	1,769
Computer Family/Youth & Child/10-13 Hunt/Fish.....	1,745	2,143
Computer Super Hunt w/Stamps.....	168	149
Computer Super Hunt/Fish w/Stamps.....	835	774
Nonresident 3-Day Hunt.....	6,813	6,749
Urban Fishing.....	28,696	29,223
Nonresident Colorado River Fish.....	1,299	1,243
Nonresident 5-Day Fish.....	8,261	7,752
Resident Youth Hunt/Fish.....	23,209	21,485
Nonresident 4-Month Fish.....	8,007	7,773
Resident/Nonresident 1-Day Fish.....	31,016	29,854
Resident Youth Group 2-Day Fish.....	109	103
Resident General Fish Nov/Dec.....	3,234	2,696
Nonresident General Fish Nov/Dec.....	153	104
Computer Family/Primary Half Fish Nov/Dec.....	24	25
Computer Family/Spouse Half Fish Nov/Dec.....	8	5
Urban Fishing Nov/Dec.....	2,304	1,866
Totals	440,318	428,056

Calendar Year License and Tag Sales	2010	2011
Licenses.....	\$16,535,455	17,106,497
Stamps.....	1,933,823	1,768,790
Tags.....	7,937,130	7,949,629
Total Value.....	\$26,406,408	\$26,824,916



Norman W. Freeman



Jack F. Husted



John W. Harris



Robert E. Mansell



Kurt Davis

THE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

Under the provisions of the Arizona Revised Statutes 17-231, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission establishes policy for the management, preservation and harvest of wildlife. The Commission makes rules and regulations for managing, conserving and protecting wildlife and fisheries resources, and safe and regulated watercraft and off-highway vehicle operations for the benefit of the citizens of Arizona. In support of the Commission's obligations, the Director, as Chief Administrative Officer, provides general supervision and control of all Department functions and activities.

The Commission is composed of five members appointed by the Governor pursuant to ARS 38-211. The Governor is assisted in the selection of Commission candidates by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission Appointment Recommendation Board.

The Commission appoints the Director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Director serves as Secretary to the Commission. No more than one Commissioner may be from any one county. No more than three may be from the same political party. Each Commissioner serves a five-year term, staggered. Commissioners customarily serve as Chair during their last year.

OUR MISSION

To conserve, enhance and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs, and to provide wildlife resources and safe watercraft and off-highway vehicle recreation for the enjoyment, appreciation and use by present and future generations.



The Arizona Game and Fish Department prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its programs and activities. If anyone believes that they have been discriminated against in any of the AGFD's programs or activities, including employment practices, they may file a complaint with the Director's Office, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086, (602) 942-3000, or with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Dr., Ste. 130, Arlington, VA 22203. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation or this document in an alternative format by contacting the Director's Office as listed above.

Arizona Game and Fish Department

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